

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GW, FR, UK

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS GDR

SUMMARY: THE GOF IS REPORTEDLY PURSUING A CAUTIOUS POLICY TOWARDS DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. THE FRENCH CONSIDER THAT EAST GERMANS ARE TRYING TO OVEREXPAND THE RELATIONSHIP TOO SOON AND IN SOME WRONG DIRECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER (MASSET) INFORMED DEPARTMENT ON
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FEBRUARY 25 OF SOME DETAILS OF VISIT ON FEB 18-20 TO PARIS

OF GERALD GOETTING, PRESIDENT OF GDR VOLKSKAMMER. GOETTING WAS RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGNES, IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS "FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE."

2. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH GOETTING, SAUVAGNARGUES REPORTEDLY STATED THAT FRANCE WANTED TO IMPROVE ITS RELATION WITH THE GDR, BUT "NOT PRECIPITATELY." HE NOTED THAT THREE AGREEMENTS WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES.

(A) CULTURAL AGREEMENT: THE GDR WAS HESITATING ABOUT THIS, WHICH WAS HARD TO UNDERSTAND, SINCE SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE DANGEROUS.

(B) ROAD TRANSPORT AND CONSULAR CONVENTIONS: SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THAT IN ITS TURN FRANCE WAS RELUCTANT TO PROCEED ON THESE AGREEMENTS. THE FRENCH WERE CONCERNED THAT THE GDR WAS PURSUING "AIMS OTHER THAN TECHNICAL," WHICH MADE THINGS DIFFICULT. IN FACT FRANCE CANNOT ACCEPT SOME GDR POSITIONS ON THESE CONVENTIONS. (COMMENT: THIS PERTAINS TO THE GDR NATIONALITY DEFINITION REQUIREMENT FOR THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, AND TO WHAT MASSET DESCRIBES AS GDR EFFORTS TO PREJUDICE FRENCH ROAD ACCESS TO BERLIN "BY AN OBLIQUE PROCESS" END COMMENT.)

3. SAUVAGNARGUES EXPRESSED REGRET THAT BILATERAL TRADE WAS NOT PROGRESSING WELL. AS TO "POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS," WHICH GDR DESIRED, FRANCE WAS NOT INCLINED TO CONSIDER THESE BEFORE THE END OF THE CSCE. (COMMENT: MASSET SAID GDR WAS PUSHING TOO HARD AND PROPOSING MINISTERIAL LEVEL VISITS WHICH WOULD HAVE POLITICAL CONTENT, E.G. THAT OF GDR DEPUTY FONMIN. END COMMENT.)

4. MASSET NOTED THAT SAUVAGNARGUES HAD MADE EARLIER PUBLIC COMMENT ON LACK OF NEED FOR ANY NATIONALITY DEFINITION IN A CONSULAR CONVENTION. HOWEVER, GOF STILL HAS NOT DECIDED FINALLY HOW IT WILL TREAT THIS ISSUE IN ITS UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER

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